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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The Costa Collection of Birds.—In *The Condor* for May, 1918, pages 114-116, Dr. T. S. Palmer has carefully reviewed the early history of *Calypte costae*, and ends with the phrase, "The Costa collection of hummingbirds, the fate of which is now unknown." Adolphe Boucard in his "Genera of Humming Birds," London, 1893-1895, under *Calypte Costae*, page 5, states: "This fine species was dedicated to Marquis Costa de Beauregard, who was a very enthusiast[ic] collector, and had in his time one of the finest collection[s] of Humming Birds. . . . I bought his collection in 1878, and I found among many rare species, what I consider as the types, male and female of this species."

Boucard, who was one of the ablest of French ornithologists and the last of the great natural history agents who made Paris their headquarters in the nineteenth century, moved to London I think in 1889, where I frequently saw him in the years 1889-1891, at his natural history agency in High Holborn. He made two notable donations of the greater part of his ornithological collection to the Paris Museum, the first I think in 1895, and the last in 1904, a few months before his death. It is probable the supposed types of *Calypte costae* were in the first donation, as Boucard had then finished his "Genera of Humming Birds."

In the Atlas, "Voyage de la Frégate la Vénus," Bourcier's types are figured (Oiseaux, pl. 2, figs. 1, 2), in colors from a painting of the male and female by Oudart.—J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ontario, October 25, 1918.*

The Wilson Phalarope in the San Diegan Region.—An adult male of the Wilson Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) was taken at Nigger Slough on September 16, this year (1918). The species has been recorded from Santa Barbara at sea level, otherwise its occurrence in the low country of the San Diegan region is quite worthy of note. The bird was alone, though Northern Phalaropes came and went from time to time. The plumage is the quiet gray of winter with some persisting wing quills that were worn. The testes were well defined but shrinking in size. This completes the roster of the American phalaropes that I have taken this September in the low country of this region.—LOYE MILLER, *State Normal School, Los Angeles, California, September 23, 1918.*

Nesting of the Western Willet in California.—In a recent conversation the Editor of *THE CONDOR* called my attention to the fact that there is only one definite record of the breeding of the Western Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*) within the state of California. This is based upon sets of eggs collected by N. R. Christie, near Beckwith, Plumas County, many years ago. It, therefore, seems well worth while to record the taking of additional eggs of this bird within the state.

During June and July, 1918, Dr. Barton W. Evermann, Mr. Joseph R. Slevin and myself made a long collecting trip by automobile, covering some 1800 miles, through northern California and southern Oregon. In early June we spent several days at a partially flooded mountain meadow known as Grasshopper Meadow or Grasshopper Lake. This is situated in Lassen County about five miles from Eagle Lake.

Grasshopper Lake is very shallow. The relative proportion of lake and meadow varies much from time to time, according as the season is one of more or less moisture. Together they cover many hundred acres. At the time of our visit the immediate shores of the lake were wide mud flats with a scattering, sprawling growth of a thick-stemmed, ragged, more or less vine-like "red-weed". Farther from the lake were meadows of sedges and grasses and a wide belt of yellow primroses, and then rolling hills covered with sage-brush.

As we reached the mud flats a number of large birds with very conspicuous white wing-patches rose in the air and, with loud cries, came driving toward us, passed, wheeled and came again and again, in very much the manner of an Avocet. There seemed to be no reason to doubt that they were the Western Willet, but, to make identification certain, one was shot. There seemed to be about six or eight or perhaps ten pairs here, and later we saw four or five more pairs in another part of the meadow several miles away. We succeeded in finding five nests. On June 1 Dr. Evermann found two nests, with one and two fresh eggs, and on June 6 I found three nests, one empty, one with four broken

eggs, and one with four eggs in which incubation had begun. The nests were made of pieces of weeds rather carelessly built up on the mud. Some were found where the water was a few inches deep and some where the mud was drying. The one with broken eggs was on a clump of "red-weed" where the receding water had permitted complete drying. The broken eggs apparently had been eaten by some mammal or bird.

The sets of one and two eggs collected by Dr. Evermann are now in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences. The set of four is in my collection.—J. VAN DENBURGH, *San Francisco, December 6, 1918.*

Nighthawk Observed in San Francisco.—On the evening of September 18, 1918, I happened to be standing at my bedroom window, on the upper floor of the house, absent-mindedly looking at the sky, when what appeared for the moment to be a far distant but exceedingly erratic sea-gull came above the horizon and at once attracted my attention. Numerous gulls had been flying over without especial notice, but this individual seemed to have gone crazy as it flew into the west, or else was forgetting how to fly. Just when it nearly disappeared from view it suddenly turned and flew back almost directly overhead, disclosing the fact that instead of being a gull it was a nighthawk. The white wing bars were visible, yet it was not possible to locate their position accurately enough to state the species, but it was presumably a Pacific Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor hesperis*). On looking at my watch it was exactly 7:20 P. M. The incident was noted down as a matter of interest and as a record of date.

Three nights after this, that is, on September 21, I happened to be at the same window at the same moment, and across the sky flew the same, or another, nighthawk, again proceeding westward. This time it did not turn, but disappeared in the western sky. I went out into the street to have a wider view, but saw nothing further. Impressed by this repetition the next evening saw me early in the street, and on the lookout for more developments. At precisely 7:21 a nighthawk appeared in the east and pursued the same course as before, again disappearing toward the ocean. Each time the bird's course was about over and parallel with Pacific Avenue or Broadway. The next few evenings were foggy or lowering and the bird was not seen again.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, October 1, 1918.*

Notes on Red-headed Woodpecker and Jack Snipe in New Mexico.—In a recent issue of THE CONDOR were published notes made by several New Mexico ornithologists on the occurrence of the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) in this state. It was pointed out that all the birds so far observed had been on or near trans-continental railway lines, indicating that the movement across treeless plains had followed the lines of telegraph poles. It might be of interest to add that on August 18, 1918, at a point about four miles north of Albuquerque, and within a quarter of a mile of the main line of the Santa Fe Railway, I observed an additional adult Red-head. I approached within twenty feet of the bird so that there can be no question whatever of identification.

On the same day I also observed four Jack Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) in the same locality. These birds were so tame and unsuspecting that I was led to believe that they had been raised in the locality. I do not know whether Jack Snipe have been known to breed at this altitude (5000 feet) in New Mexico, but this record indicates that they may be found here during the breeding season.—ALDO LEOPOLD, *Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 21, 1918.*

Nesting of the Band-tailed Pigeon in San Diego County, California.—I have recently received an egg of the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) taken on Palomar Mountain, San Diego County, on October 11, 1918. This was perfectly fresh and was the only egg in the nest, which was situated in a post-oak near the side of a road and was twelve feet above the ground. The average of 13 eggs given by Bendire is (as reduced from millimeters to inches) 1.57x1.13. His largest egg measured 1.72x1.20. This egg of mine measures 1.93x1.07.

I have the report of another egg taken in the same locality on October 14, incubation commenced. This, also, was in an oak about twelve feet above the ground. The

nest was unusually large, about 18 inches top diameter, 3½ inches thick; perfectly flat, no hollow. Elevation about 5000 feet above sea-level.

My informant tells me that the Pigeons are very numerous on Palomar Mountain and he believed that there were several more pairs nesting. He says the acorn crop is unusually large this year and that the elder and cascara bushes are loaded with berries, on both of which the pigeons largely feed. Probably the plentiful food supply and a warm open fall account for the late nesting. Possibly the fall may be the best time to find them nesting anyway. They are scarce enough in the spring and summer.—C. S. SHARP, *Escondido, California, October 27, 1918.*

Recent Additions to the California State List of Birds.—There was enumerated as of full standing in the 1915 "Distributional List of the Birds of California" (Pacific Coast Avifauna number 11) a total of 541 species and subspecies. Up to December 20, 1918, there have been no adequate reasons advanced for removing any one of these 541 forms from regular standing. On the other hand, there has been a total of 23 additional forms given full standing as birds of California on reasonably convincing grounds. These 23 additions are listed below, each with citation to place of proposal. It must be kept in mind that mere changes in names do not figure here—only distinct species or subspecies not included in the main 1915 list under any name whatsoever.

1. *Thalassogeron culminatus* (Gould). Yellow-nosed Albatross. This name is restored from hypothetical status because the determination of the skull upon which the earlier record was based has been authenticated. (See Loomis, *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.*, 4th ser., II, 1918, pp. 84-85.)
2. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa kaedingi* Anthony. Kaeding Petrel. (See Miller, *Condor*, xx, 1918, p. 211.)
3. *Anser albifrons gambeli* Hartlaub. Tule Goose. (See Swarth and Bryant, *Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.*, xvii, 1917, pp. 209-222, pl. 13.)
4. *Numenius americanus americanus* Bechstein. American Long-billed Curlew. (See Oberholser, *Auk*, xxxv, 1918, pp. 189-190.) Oberholser ascribes two races of the Long-billed Curlew to California, of which *Numenius americanus occidentalis* is the more essentially western form and the one to which most previous records probably belong.
5. *Astur atricapillus atricapillus* (Wilson). Eastern Goshawk. (See Grinnell, *Condor*, xix, 1917, p. 70.) Doubts have been expressed by L. B. Bishop and by P. A. Taverner as to the existence of two races of goshawk in America; but so far no adequate treatment of the problem has been published.
6. *Glaucidium gnoma pinicola* Nelson. Rocky Mountain Pigmy Owl. (See Grinnell, *Condor*, xx, 1918, p. 86.)
7. *Dryobates villosus leucothorectis* Oberholser. White-breasted Woodpecker. (See Grinnell, *Condor* xx, 1918, p. 86.)
8. *Selasphorus platycercus* (Swainson). Broad-tailed Hummingbird. Restored from hypothetical status. (See Swarth, *Condor*, xviii, 1916, p. 130; Grinnell, *Condor*, xx, 1918, p. 87.)
9. *Muscivora forficata* (Gmelin). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. (See Swarth, *Condor*, xvii, 1915, p. 203.)
10. *Aphelocoma californica immanis* Grinnell. Interior California Jay. (See Oberholser, *Condor*, xix, 1917, pp. 94-95; Swarth, *Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.*, xvii, 1918, pp. 411, 415.)
11. *Aphelocoma californica oocleptica* Swarth. Northwestern California Jay. (See Swarth, *Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.*, xvii, 1918, pp. 411, 414.)
12. *Calcarius ornatus* (Townsend). Chestnut-collared Longspur. (See Grinnell, *Condor*, xx, 1918, p. 87.)
13. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna* (Wilson). Eastern Savannah Sparrow. (See Clay, *Condor*, xix, 1917, p. 68.)
14. *Passerculus rostratus guttatus* Lawrence. San Lucas Marsh Sparrow. (See Brown, *Auk*, xxxiv, 1917, p. 340.) I confess that I should like to see the whole *Passerculus* category of sparrows thoroughly revised on the basis of the most careful appraisal of age, sex and seasonal variation, as well as of geographical variation.
15. *Passerella iliaca monoensis* Grinnell and Storer. Mono Fox Sparrow. (See Grinnell and Storer, *Condor*, xix, 1917, pp. 165-166.)

16. *Passerella iliaca brevicauda* Mailliard. Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow. (See Mailliard, Condor, xx, 1918, pp. 138-139.)
17. *Pipilo maculatus montanus* Swarth. Mountain Towhee. (See Grinnell, Condor, xx, 1918, p. 87.)
18. *Vermivora virginiae* (Baird). Virginia Warbler. (See Grinnell, Condor, xx, 1918, p. 193.)
19. *Vermivora celata orestera* Oberholser. Rocky Mountain Orange-crowned Warbler. (See Oberholser, Auk, xxii, 1905, p. 244; Grinnell, Pac. Coast Avif., no. 11, 1915, p. 146.)
20. *Telmatodytes palustris aestuarinus* Swarth. Suisun Marsh Wren. (See Swarth, Auk, xxxiv, 1917, pp. 310-311.)
21. *Sitta carolinensis tenuissima* Grinnell. Inyo Slender-billed Nuthatch. (See Grinnell, Condor, xx, 1918, p. 88.)
22. *Penthestes gambeli inyoensis* Grinnell. Inyo Mountain Chickadee. (See Grinnell, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., xvii, 1918, pp. 506, 510.)
23. *Hylocichla guttata polionota* Grinnell. White Mountains Hermit Thrush. (See Grinnell, Condor, xx, 1918, pp. 89-90.)

With these 23 additions the total number of birds for California comes to 564. We are still decidedly behind Texas, with its 605 species and subspecies (see Oberholser, Condor, xix, 1917, p. 68); but we are steadily catching up!—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 20, 1918.*

A Northern Record of *Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*.—On the 28th of July, 1918, while returning by auto from a reconnaissance trip in Humboldt County, Nevada, we encountered two Western Mockingbirds on Duck Flat, at a point some miles northwest of Sunkist (formerly Duck Lake), Nevada. The occurrence was so unusual that I stopped the car and made sure of the birds' identity. The birds were straggling at some distance apart and appeared to be working their way slowly northward, fluttering from clump to clump over a luxuriant growth of sage. The record station is well above the forty-first parallel of latitude, and not more than six miles east of the California boundary line.—WILLIAM LEON DAWSON, *Santa Barbara, California, December 4, 1918.*

Sapsuckers and Hummingbirds.—In early June of this year (1918) I was collecting in the Moose Mountain District (southeast corner of Saskatchewan). This is a hilly district, thickly wooded, with numerous lakes and sloughs, surrounded by flat prairie—an "oasis in the desert". Near Fish Lake, each side of the trail, were a few birch trees among the poplars. I noticed that Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*) had been at work on one of the birch-trees; some five or six rows of holes were made about twelve feet from the ground. As I looked at this tree, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) came to it, hovering in front of, and probing, the holes, feeding on the sap. I had never seen *colubris* thus feeding, and stayed at the spot a couple of hours to make observations.

Shortly a male Sapsucker came to the spot, drove away the hummingbird and commenced to feed, followed by the female who drove away her mate. Sitting partly hidden by the underbrush close to this tree, I noted that a hummingbird came, on an average, every ten minutes, a sapsucker every half hour. As I needed specimens of this usually scarce species, as well as desiring to know if it was the same two or three birds which were being attracted to this feeding place, I took (with .22 shot cartridges) six hummingbirds, four males and two females; but still others came to feed as before. This was between 8 and 10 A. M. Passing the spot on my way back about 5 P. M., I saw another, but had no time for further observations. Examination of the birds taken showed no signs of minute insects, but considerable clear liquid came from the mouth, which satisfied me the hummingbirds were *actually feeding on the sap*.—H. H. MITCHELL, *Provincial Museum, Regina, Saskatchewan, October 25, 1918.*

Western Golden-crowned Kinglet in Los Angeles.—On November 27 of this year (1918), I picked up in my yard in the city of Los Angeles an adult male Western Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa olivaceus*). From time to time during the past five weeks, the notes of this species have been heard in the locality, but no view of the birds was obtained until the above date when three times during the morning a small flock of them visited the premises, feeding in oak and sycamore trees. The elevation here is 500 feet above sea-level and constitutes the lowest point at which I have ever observed the species so far south as Los Angeles.—LOVE MILLER, *State Normal School, Los Angeles, December 10, 1918.*